

Montana's Definition of "Proficient" for LEP Students

In order to determine when LEP students become proficient, districts will take into account multiple measures which include:

- A score of proficient (P) or advanced (A) overall on the ELP assessment along with a rating of proficient or above (PA) in all domains (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). Students scoring as Proficient(P) should demonstrate a proficient score on the ELP assessment for two consecutive years. Students scoring as Advanced(A) along with additional measures and teacher input would be considered proficient and not expected to take the ELP assessment again;
- Input from additional measures of reading, writing, or language development available from school assessments that link to the district process in place for the identification of LEP students. OPI will provide further guidance after the 2nd administration of the ELP assessment.

This recommendation is based on input from school district staff members that serve LEP students across the state, a review of practices in other states, and input from psychometricians. The results of the first administration of the ELP assessment were sent to districts in July. It will be important for districts to review their process for LEP determination using this definition before the AIM collection in October and the beginning of the testing window for the ELP assessment (October 23-November 23). We hope that the definition of proficiency for LEP students will make this process clearer for districts.